

U.S.S.N. 09/531,735
Filed: March 21, 2000
AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

REMARKS

Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Additionally, the applicants have reviewed the Final Office Action of July 23, 2002, and respectfully assert that this paper is responsive to all points raised therein.

Claims 9-13 have been indicated as allowable.

Claims 6-8 have been cancelled. This cancellation of claims 6-8 is made without prejudice, and in doing so applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications. Moreover, applicants do not accept or acquiesce to the rejections of these claims noted in the Final Office Action, but seek to move allowed claims 9-13 to issue.

Claims 6-8 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated individually by Comer (U.S. Patent No. 5,007,234) and Brant, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,881,465) (Brant).

These rejections are now moot in view of the applicants canceling claims 6-8 without prejudice. In canceling claims 6-8, without prejudice, the applicants do not accept or acquiesce to these rejections. Additionally, upon filing a divisional or continuation application, the applicants will maintain the arguments distinguishing claims 6-8 over Comer and Brant individually.

Applicant has requested, and awaits approval, of drawing changes submitted with the Applicant's Amendment of October 25, 2001. Applicant has submitted formal drawings on July 15, 2002. These formal drawings include the changes made in the October 25, 2001

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Amendment. It is respectfully asserted that these Formal Drawings satisfy all drawing requirements.

The Examiner's citations of U.S. Patent No. 4,124,938 (Ballas, Sr.) and DE 3 618 177 A1 (Klinger) are noted to complete the record.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this paper, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned counsel at the address and telephone number below. Additionally, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned counsel.

Entry of this paper and allowance of all pending claims, 9-13, is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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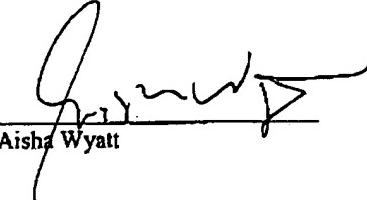
Date: August 23, 2002

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Certificate of Mailing Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.


Aisha Wyatt

Date: August 23, 2002

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